

Shepherds Spring, Andover  
Woodland Management Recommendations

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**Current Site Conditions**

- 1.1 The trees that run alongside the eastern boundary of the site and project westwards to separate the playing fields from the school buildings are subject to a 'Woodland' classification Tree Preservation Order No. 0968.
- 1.2 Many of the trees were densely planted with limited subsequent management. This has resulted in overcrowding which has led to some trees showing signs of etiolation.
- 1.3 A path/ desire line runs westward through the wooded area parallel to the playing fields.
- 1.4 Generally the planting has suffered from a lack of management in the past and is now in need of intervention to secure its long term viability.
- 1.5 The tree groups are similar in age and generally consist of mixed native trees with shrubs which can be further defined into distinct species rich groupings or proposed management scenario.

**Management Recommendations**

- 1.6 For tree groups refer to RPS Tree Constraints Plan JSL1628/004.
- 1.7 Group A is chiefly Ash and runs alongside the eastern boundary. Many of the trees are etiolated but generally the overall structure has established to provide an effective screen and there are a number of trees with long term value. It is recommended that these trees be retained and managed to provide a long term screen. This will require regular assessment, thinning and the removal of dead, diseased, damaged or dangerous specimens.
- 1.8 Group B is identified as consisting chiefly of Hazel and smaller native species currently managed as multi-stemmed/ coppices. These occur on the gently sloping ground between the existing playing field area and the proposed Children's Centre. The structure is generally light and will provide a filtered screen to any re-development whilst going some way to appease concerns over large, seemingly dense planting so near to the boundary of the crèche. Maintenance should consist of rotational coppicing to ensure both continual coverage and regeneration. The tree and coppice stools are centred at 4m with an under-storey of ivy. Evergreen natives, such as holly, could also be encouraged and incorporated into the coppicing regime to reinforce all year round screening.

- 1.9 Group C consists chiefly Cherry in a very poor condition with only a limited useful life. Intervention is required to deal with the moribund and younger over-extended trees. It is recommended that in light of their poor condition and to encourage a more proactive management approach of coppicing to Group B, that the Group C trees be removed and the area partially replanted and/or managed as public open space. This would also have the advantage of benefiting the long-term development of adjacent better quality trees identified as group D.
- 1.10 Group D consists of a small number of large well developed Ash trees. These trees have good long term potential.
- 1.11 A number of Beech trees of small stature but with potential high are identified in Group E, also containing native shrubs and it is recommended that the trees be retained wherever possible.

### **Summary**

- 1.12 The outline management recommendations contained above will retain a continuous band of vegetation projecting westwards.
- 1.13 The net loss of any tree coverage could be mitigated with replanting to provide buffer around the around the perimeter of the site and would see the introduction of trees of a different age class and species to that which already exists.
- 1.14 The locations of trees identified for retention should be confirmed onsite prior to commencing any clearance works.
- 1.15 Tree works should be carried out in accordance with the following British Standards:

BS 5837: 2005 Guide for Trees in relation to construction

BS 3998: 1989 Recommendations for tree works